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HIT LAX DISCIPLINE, HEAVY TURNOVER IN FACTORIES

SCORES ABSENTEEISM, HEAVY PERSONNEL TURNOVER-- Budapest, Vilagossag, 28 Jul 51

Deterioration of shop discipline is the principal cause for nonfulfillment of plan quotas, the National Council of Trade Unions was advised by its general secretary, Antal Apro. This trend manifests itself in mining, metallurgy, the building industry, and other industries. In May 1951, for example, 213 shifts were lost in mining due to absenteeism. Absenteeism is also widespread in the iron and machine industry. At the MAVAG (Iron, Steel, and Machine Works of the Hungarian State Railroads), the average personnel turnover is 300 a month. Approximately half of these leave the plant within 8 days, and 80 workers usually leave arbitrarily without permission.

The number of work days lost has also increased. In July 1951, the Ganz Electric and the Standard Electric Appliances enterprises lost a total of 8,000 days, while the loss in working time amounted to 13,000 for the Ganz Wagonworks and 14,000 for the MAVAG during the same month.

Unsatisfactory shop discipline and large personnel turnover are due mainly to the managements' failure to keep the workers occupied and to assure continuity in production. In many cases, enterprises lured workers from another enterprise. During June 1951, 50 workers of the Uzsapuzsta quarry left without permission and joined the Veszprem Road Maintenance Enterprise, which employed them without their workbooks. Illegal employment of workers without workbooks is widespread among the industrial enterprises.

The foregoing examples reveal the gravity of the situation in regard to shop discipline and the infringement of the law by the managements. It is unfortunate that the trade unions are not doing their share by indoctrinating the workers in discipline. Apro suggested that the National Council of Trade Unions ask the government to take strong disciplinary action against loiterers, tramps, and shirkers.

- 1 -

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PROTEST WORKERS' MIGRATION -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 15 Jun 51

It is not a coincidence that exactly in those branches of industry which lag behind their quotas under the Five-Year Plan the problem of workers' discipline is greatest.

One of the most serious aspects of the problem of discipline is the constant migration of workers from job to job. This migration is especially prevalent among coal miners, construction workers, and in the building-materials trade, but it is also felt in some of the heavy industries. In April, 1,205 workers -- one third of the total labor force of the Dunamenti Magasepito Vallalat (Danube Valley Construction Enterprise) -- left their jobs. During a single month 1,112 workers left the Betonutepito Vallalat (Concrete Road Construction Enterprise) without the director's approval. During the past few months 538 workers left the Szuhavolgy coal mines. The Becsuti Teglagyar (Becsut Brickworks) recently recruited 48 laborers, after 48 of its workers left.

The main reason for this migration of workers is that in many enterprises the party and union organizations, and also the factory directors and technical managers, do not pay enough attention to, and show enough understanding for, the new workers. It is also very important that working conditions be made as pleasant as possible and that advantageous earning possibilities be devised for the new worker.

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- 2 -

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